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**GOVERNOR EHRLICH HONORS MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY (MSC)
FOR TWO MILESTONES IN ONE YEAR: 100,000 CONTAINERS & 2 MILLION TONS**

MSC Was Seagirt Marine Terminal's First Container Line (1990)

In a noontime ceremony today, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. presented Captains Nicola Arena, President, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) USA and E. Lorenzo Di Casagrande, V.P. of MSC's Baltimore Office, with proclamations honoring **MSC's historic achievements in 2004: surpassing 100,000 containers AND two million gross annual tons in one year.**

"Every Marylander who drives I-95 has encountered these yellow containers with the black MSC logo. The next time you see one, remember: you're looking at 500 direct Maryland jobs and \$5.6 million in State, county and municipal taxes. We look forward to a long prosperous relationship with MSC," said Governor Ehrlich.

MSC, a customer of MPOB for nearly 20 years, is two-and-a-half years into a 10-year lease with the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). In 2003, the MPA renegotiated an additional 150,000 containers over the life of the contract through April 2011. This brings the new total to 500,000 containers over 10 years.

Beginning as a small, carry-as-needed service between the Mediterranean and North Europe, MSC grew to a liner service in 1973, expanding to East Africa that same year. Today, MSC operates about 248 containerships and 7 cruise ships. Trade routes to the United States include, East and South Africa, the Indian Ocean, Australia, South America, the Near East, Canary Islands, North Europe and the Mediterranean. MSC is a privately held Italian company formed in 1970 by Gianluigi Aponte, now President and Chairman. Headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)...add one

In 2004, the economic impact of Mediterranean Shipping Company on Maryland was:

- 500 direct jobs, 200 induced jobs, and 150 indirect jobs
- \$42 million in personal and business revenues
- \$12.5 million in local purchases
- \$5.6 million in state, county and municipal taxes.

Celebrating its 300th birthday in 2006, Maryland's Port of Baltimore has consistently ranked as one of the United States' top ports for several reasons. It is located more than 150 miles inland and is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fifth largest, second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of the Port of Baltimore (Maryland Port Administration) recently surpassed a brand new milestone--exceeding 7 million tons of general cargo in FY 2004.

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